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VOLUME EIGHT ISSUE #22

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The 1891 Half

by
Bill Cregan

Eclipsed by the sharp scarcity of circulated halves of 1879-1890, the 1891 coin is an ignored date that needs closer inspection. Most catalogues classify this coin as a common date, along with the 1853 arrows, 1858-0, and the 1875 to 1877 specie redemption halves.

200,000 commercial strikings came out in this final year of the Seated Half series. This date is easy to overlook when contrasted with the negligible mintages of the 1879 to 1890 halves, when no more than 15,000 coins trickled out annually. After an eleven year dry spell, 200,000 coins does seem like a big production spurt.

Popular coin publications and catalogues rate the 1891 as follows, in the 1981 Redbook, G. $13, VG $15, F. $22.50, VF. $35, EF., $65; Coin World, 7/22/81 G. $19, VG. $23, F. $25, VF. $40, EF. $90; Numismatic News, 7/4/81, G. $20, VG. $25, F. $35, VF. $60, XF. $115.

The above prices signify within variation demand for a coin just a fraction more unusual than the commonest dates. Somehow I wasn't satisfied with these quotes and turned to another catalogue.

I consulted Scott's Comprehensive Catalogue and Encyclopedia of U.S. Coins, 1971 edition, by Don Taxay. He assigns these values to the 1891: G. $35, F. $40, VF. $50. These figures are just a notch lower than prices quoted on the same page for the 1879 to 1890 dates.

The Taxay figures seem to indicate that the 1891 might be grouped with the famous 1880's coins instead of the 1875 to 1877 halves as indicated in popular coin publications and catalogues. I also have my own reasons for including the 1891 among this grouping. I've been to several coin shows in the past three years and always keep my eyes tuned to what I feel are underrated dates, and the 1891 is right in there. Over this span I've detected only four circulated pieces, not including proofs. Their condition has been either heavily worn or impaired by incompetent cleaning, which could mean that original, uncleaned, VF and higher coins are especially underrated.

The 1891 makes few appearances in print. Retail price lists seldom list this date. This same observation also extends to mail bid lists and auction catalogues in the circulated grades.

For availability information I'll describe the four circulated pieces I've encountered at coin shows. Number one, nice gray toning, but with a detracting rim bruise on the upper right obverse, mashing in one of the stars, price $45, and graded Fine. Number two, Very Fine detail, but cleaned with baking soda repeatedly, giving it a dull surface, price $115. Number three, Fine, but cleaned with an eraser, price, $75. Number four, Very Good, light gray toning, possibly cleaned long ago, and with a light but not totally detracting vertical staple scratch on the reverse cutting from the eagle's beak through the central wing and zigzaging down to the left claw, price $15.

It might be noted that the first three dealers placed this coin in the 1879-1890 club if their pricing is indicative of scarcity. I broke down and purchased the half with the staple scratch, although I don't normally buy "problem" coins. I think, however, that the 1891 is an exception. Based on my observations of the shyness of this date, I think waiting for the XF 45 piece with iridescent black fields and silvery gray devices and legends might be hopeless, and a mistake.

Don Taxay's catalogue points out that certain scarce dates from a series are seldom offered in high circulated grades, and I believe that the 1891 is one of these dates. Also, Taxay continues, some coin catalogues list these scarce dates in grades in which only a few or none exist, leading the collector to wait for an almost imaginary condition that may take years or a generation to surface. Again, I believe the 1891 is in this classification.

Taxay's advice might be taken seriously by the collector who gets a pang in his stomach when he realizes he rejected a scarce date in worn condition, reasoning that a better example is somewhere awaiting. This tragic decision results from insufficient data about scarce dates. Relying on popular coin catalogues perpetuates this attitude. The collector should depend on his own observations and research if he expects to avoid this mistake. Being too picky over the condition of a scarce date might forever abolish the opportunity to obtain the coin.

I think the 1891 is a date for all Seated collectors to go after. It's an exciting date that truly kindles interest, and offers a challenge.

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HALVES

1840-0	40/40	$90
1842	Large Date 40+/40+	100
1842-0	Large Date 35/35	65
1844-0	40+/40+	100
1845-0	No Drapery 40/40	195
1846-0	Small Date 35/35	65
1846-0	Tall Date 25/25+ Strong LIBERTY	175
1846 46-0	35/35 Rim nicks	145
1848	45+/45+ commercial AU, nice	275
1848	35+/40	125
1848-0	40 (Muddy strike)/40+	65
1849	Doubled date 25/30+	135
1850-0	40/45	100
1852-0	35/40	225
1853-0	So called No Drap. 35/35	165
1855	45/40	100
1856-0	40/40	65
1858	40/40	60
1858-0	35/40 scrubbed look	40
1858-S	40+/40+	195
1859	35/35	50
1859-0	40/40	65
1859-S	40+/40+	195
1860	35/35	90
1860-0	40/40	65
1860-S	35/35	85

Also:

1841-0	Half Dime 30/30 Nice	$95
1843/1843	Half Dime 45+/45	245
1875-CC	20¢ 50/50	625

HALVES

1861-0	35/35	$60
1861-S	40/40	75
1862-S	35/35	65
1863	40/40	90
1863-S	40/45	70
1864-S	40/40 scrubbed	45
1865	45/45 super strike, tiny obverse ding	100
1866	With Motto 40/40	125
1866-S	No Motto 30+/35	195
1866-S	With Motto 35/35	60
1867	50/50	295
1867	45/45	195
1868	40/40	175
1869	40/40	100
1871-S	35/35	60
1871-S	So called No Drap. 25/25	125
1872	35/35	35
1875	40/40 scrubbed	50
1875-S	35/40	50
1876	45/45	90
1876-S	40/40	65
1877-CC	40/40	90
1877-S	40/40	75
1877-S	So called No Drap, 45/45 several obverse marks	135
1880	35/35	245
1881	30/35	265
1883	35/35	275

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The 1847-O Quarter

by

John W. McCloskey

The 1847-0 quarter has proven to be a very difficult date to locate in grades of XF or better and is one of the underrated dates in the series. Even in average circulated grades the date is not often encountered in spite of a relatively high mintage figure listed at 368,000 pieces. Michael Vezzetti brought a choice XF specimen to the ANA convention in New Orleans in July and that specimen led to a complete study of the die characteristics of his piece. We compared his specimen with others available at the convention and noted individual characteristics. Some special features were noted that will help collectors identify and authenticate their own specimens of this date. The key features of the 1847-0 quarter are given below.

Obverse - The date measures about 2.0mm high and is almost 0.3mm below the base of the rock. The tip of the shield is over the left edge of the digit 8 while the base of the digit 7 is centered over a denticle. There are several shallow die lines visible in the low areas of the shield and drapery over the letter Y in LIBERTY.

Obverse Date Area of 1847-0 Quarter.

Reverse - The lowest horizontal stripe in the reverse shield extends over 0.5mm out beyond the left edge of the reverse shield. This die line is clearly visible on even worn pieces and identifies this reverse. The New Orleans mintmark measures about 1.3mm high, is equidistant between the feather and the letter R and a little further away from the stem of the branch. The mintmark appears to tilt to the left and is about 50% over the letter R.

Several die cracks of interest are seen on the reverse at this stage. One crack connects the base of the letters NITED STATES and then runs up through the center of the 0 to the denticles between OF. Another runs through the base of the letters OF and then up into the A and on to the denticles over the letter A. A final crack runs from the center of the right edge of the D to the denticles between D S.

Michael Vezzetti and I compared his XF specimen to others available at the convention and noted that the die line to the left of the reverse shield was clearly visible on others of this variety examined. There was one exception. We found one 1847-0 quarter without the die line that had a mintmark placement further right than on the one described in this article. This was the first time that I became aware of the existance of a second variety for this date. We examined the second variety carefully but do not have a picture for presentation of the description at this time. I hope to give complete details on the second variety presented for examination by Bill Carpenter at the ANA in a future issue of the Journal.

The pictures of the 1847-0 quarter were taken by Tom Mulvaney at Paramount Rare Coin Corporation in Englewood, Ohio.

Circular New Orleans Mintmark on 1847-0 Quarter.

Reverse of 1847-0 Quarter Showing Die Cracks

Lowest horizontal stripe extends out into left wing.

A Fake 1853 No Arrows Half Surfaces

There are no known specimens of an 1853 No Arrows Philadelphia half dollar in spite of the fact that the No Arrows variety does exist in the half dime, dime, quarter and dollar series. I have seen attempts to create this variety in the half dollar series by the removal of the arrows from the common With Arrows variety of the same date. However the piece pictured below is a fake created by altering the last digit on an 1858 half to make it look like the 1853 date. It was shown to me by Barry Ciociola at the ANA in New Orleans. He discovered the alteration and wanted other members to know that such pieces exist. A careful examination of the coin reveals that the piece was once harshly cleaned and retoned with evidence of a rough surface between the loops of the altered last digit.

The microscopic evidence of alteration is conclusive on this piece but even if it weren't, there would be sufficient reason to believe that the coin had been altered. The date is too tall, measuring almost 0.3mm taller than the date punches used on the genuine 1853 halves. Furthermore the style of the 5 punch is not representative of this period, the ball in the lower loop being too far above the base of the digit. The upright of the digit 5 is also too straight and does not extend down close enough to the ball below. The date characteristics provide conclusive evidence that this piece has been altered from an 1858 half. The fact is that such alterations can be detected if the collector will take the time to examine a suspect piece carefully before purchase.

The picture of the 1853 No Arrows altered half was taken by Tom Mulvaney at Paramount Rare Coin Corp. in Englewood, Ohio.

The Editor

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1837	Sharp XF	$260
1838-0	Good	50
1838-0	Good +	70
1842-0	Good +	20
1844-0	Good +	70
1848	Large Date VG	14
1853	Arrows G-VG	5
1855-0	Good +	14
1857-0	VG +	15
1858	Doubled Date VG-F	60
1863	VG/F	110
1863	Sharp AU	395
1871	Abt Fine	8
1873-S	VG +	13

DIMES

1838-0	G-VG	$33
1840	With Drapery VG +	55
1840	With Drapery Fine	85
1840	With Drapery F-VF	135
1850-0	Fine	18
1853	Arrows VG-F	8
1853	Arrows VF-XF	20
1856	Small Date F	10
1856	Large Date VF	30
1856-S	Lite Obverse Damage, F + Priced Accordingly	48
1873	No Arr. Open 3 XF +	125
1875-S	Below Wreath VF-XF	15
1880	A-2 XF +	275
1887	VG/G	5
1888-S	Fine	12
1888-S	XF +	37
1889	VG-F	6
1890	Fine	7
1890-S	VG +	13
1890-S	Fine	16
1890-S	VF +	35
1891	VG-F	6
1891	Fine	7

QUARTERS

1839	Reverse of 1838 VG	$20
1850	VG	38
1850	Sharp VF	73
1856	VG +	7
1857-0	VG-F	11
1858	VG	7
1858	Fine	9
1858-0	VG-F	18
1875-CC	VG-F	115
1876	VF	18
1876-CC	VG/G	6
1876-CC	Fine Reeding XF + +	185
1878-CC	Good +	15
1880	Fine +	145
1883	VG	130
1891	VG	7

HALF DOLLARS

1840	B-1A VF	$58
1841	VF +	80
1842	Small Date XF-AU	195
1842	Large Date Fine	33
1845-0	VF +	65
1846	F-VF	34
1846	Tall Date VF	59
1846-0	VG	18
1846-0	Tall Date VG	70
1847	VG	19
1848	G-VG	29
1856-S	VG	45
1857	VF-XF	55
1858	Good +	15
1858	F-VF	20
1858-0	VF +	45
1858-S	XF	120
1860	Good +	25
1860	AU	240
1861	VF-XF	50
1862	AU	210
1863	VF-XF	60

Continued, next page

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Continued from page 12

HALF DOLLARS

1864	XF +	$95
1865	Fine +	49
1865-S	XF	95
1866	With Motto Fine	35
1866	With Motto, Sharp XF +	125
1867	About VG	37
1867	Fine +	55
1867-S	XF	70
1868	XF	170
1872-S	XF	170
1872-CC	Good	39
1872-CC	Full Rims, Good	59
1872-CC	About VG	70
1872-CC	Weak E, Fine +	130
1873	No Arrows, Fine	40
1873	No Arrows, F-VF	45
1873	No Arrows, VF	60
1873	No Arrows, XF	120
1873-CC	With Arrows, G-VG	70

HALF DOLLARS

1875-S	VG +	$17
1876-CC	Good +	17
1877	VF +	31
1877-CC	Good +	17
1890	VG	165

DOLLARS

1841	Fine	$120
1849	VF	180
1859-0	Good	65
1860-0	VF	150
1864	VG/F +	165
1870	XF	230
1872-S	VG	175

On The Cover

The cover of this issue presents a picture of the obverse of an 1860-0 dollar. The picture was taken by Ed Fleischman at ANACS in Colorado Springs, Colorado and was presented to the club for use as the cover photo for this year. The Liberty Seated dollar obverse is similar to that used for the smaller denominations but it is distinctive in several ways. Information on the particular features of the dollar obverse will be given throughout the year. This is the first year that we have featured a dollar coin on the cover and it seems most appropriate for this year with the increased interest and activity in the dollar series.

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1840	With Drapery Good-4 pitted	$10.95
1840-0	With Drapery VG-8	29.50
1843	VG-8 barely	7.50
1851-0	EF-40 average strike	45.00
1853-0	No Arrows G4/F15 partial date	79.95
1853-0	With Arrows F-15 nice tone	10.95
1858-0	VF-20	18.95
1866-S	F-12 tough	21.50

DIMES

1839	VG-F10 +	$9.50
1840-0	Large 0 Good-4	7.50
1840-0	Large 0 EF-AU45 rough, cleaned	23.50
1840-0	Medium 0 VG-F10 Rare	65.00
1840-0	Small o VG-F10	10.95
1840-0	Small o VF-30 obverse scratches	15.00
1841	Choice AU-55 lustrous, Full strike	139.00
1841-0	Medium 0, Reverse of 1842-0, Shattered Die VF-20	21.95
1844	VG-8 tough date	36.50
1846	Fine-12 barely. Rare!	139.00
1851-0	EF-40 Few moderate contact marks · not obvious	48.95
1852-0	VF-30 slightly rough	32.50

DIMES (Continued)

1859-0	EF-AU45 lite scratch on breast	44.00
1864-S	Fine-15 Reverse rim nick	22.95
1871-CC	Good-4 Very Tough!	295.00
1872	VF-20 little rough	7.95
1875-S	S below wreath F-VF15	7.95
1875-S	S in wreath XF-40 weak strike	69.50
1876-CC	F-VF15	7.95
1876-CC	XF-45 nicely toned	19.50
1885	XF-40	11.50
1889	XF-40	11.50

QUARTERS

1839	G-VG6	$9.75
1841-0	Good-4 +	10.50
1848	AG-3 tough date	15.95
1874-S	AG-3	7.95
1875-CC	VG-8 tiny scratch by date	59.95
1891-S	Nice AU-50 + Obv. pin scratch	79.95

HALVES

1847-0	VG-8 strong coin	$18.50
1848-0	EF-AU 45/55 Prooflike	84.95
1850	VG-8 + strong coin. Rare!	69.95
1869	EF-AU 45/50 toned, Nice	82.50

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Liberty Seated Half Dollars
Frequency of Listing By condition

by
William B. Bugert

Anyone who has ever attempted to complete a set of Liberty Seated coins knows that it can be a monumental, if not impossible, task. Considering all the known rarities and the not-so-well known hard to find dates it could take a lifetime to accomplish. Some of the more difficult dates are obvious (from published mintage figures, popularity, etc.) while others are not. It wasn't until a few years ago that I decided to keep detailed notes on Seated halves. Since that is all I now collect and research, the availability of certain dates has always interested me.

In past issues of the **Gobrecht Journal** John McCloskey spent considerable time and effort accumulating data on the availability of Seated dimes and quarters from Coin World ads. I applied his idea to my Seated half dollar interest. I made a listing of the frequency to which each date and mint (some varieties also) was listed in two popular weekly numismatic publications: Coin World and Numismatic News for 25 consecutive weeks from January 28, 1981 to July 15, 1981. I broke my listing into 7 circulated grades as well as uncirculated and proof. I decided to collect data from both Coin World and Numismatic News. I've found that some advertisers list coins in both publications while others prefer only one or the other. It took considerable effort while collecting data to eliminate duplicate listings between the two papers but the end product is just that much more accurate. Obvious duplicate listings of the same coin over several weeks were not included in the final tabulation.

My listing contains only coins that were offered at fixed prices and does not include pieces offered in Mail Bid sales or those offered as trade material. Coins offered for sale by Seated specialists were not included as I wanted a typical selection of what was available in today's market.

While I don't wish to infer that this listing is an indication of the relative scarcity or rarity of given half dollar issues, it may serve as a guide as to what is commonly available on today's market and assist the Seated half enthusiast in completing his set in the grade he desires.

It is conspicuously evident that one complete date/mint set could be accumulated with at least one of each (including the 1878-S key) being available. However, high grade specimens of many of the early issues presumably are not available, although these are usually offered in major numismatic auctions.

There was an abundance of the popular 1839 no drapery variety even in high grades. While this variety is priced well above its with drapery sister, demand as a type piece is high. The common 1845-0 no drapery "die state" appears less often but then demand is also much less. All the

early New Orleans mint issues (excluding the 1842-0 Small Date rarity) seem plentiful even in higher circulated grades. I broke the 1846's into three categories: Medium Date, Tall Date, and Unidentified Date. Some dealers not acquainted with Seated halves are unfamiliar with the difference between the medium and tall date varieties. Specimens were listed as advertised and the reader can draw his own conclusions.

A few of the early Philadelphia mint halves have always been hard to locate and are habitually underrated: 1841, 1845, 1848, 1849, 1851, and 1852. These are available but only in very small quantities. Considering its high mintage and demand as a one year type coin, it's not surprising that the most commonly advertised coin was the 1853 Arrows and Rays.

There is nothing striking about the listing of the late 1850's, 1860's, or early 1870's. All seem abundant including the 1855-S and 1870-CC keys. Though I consider the 1870-CC rarer, it is listed only in the four lower circulated grades. There is nothing uncommon about the mintage of the 1870-S but it would appear almost unavailable as only three were listed for sale.

Of personal interest is the 1873-S which I recently acquired for my collection. From experience I've found this date difficult to find and with only four listed believe this date to be underrated.

As for the key (1878-S) of the series, only one appeared and that in about good condition. This date is usually available only through major auctions and not on fixed price lists.

I curiously watched the 1879-1890 dates while accumulating data. With such low mintages these are habitually underrated. Recently they have enjoyed collector interest and are priced accordingly by dealers.

Certainly many other conclusions can be drawn but I hope this listing will allow you additional insight into the popular Seated Liberty half dollar series.

LIBERTY SEATED HALF DOLLARS

Availability in Coin World and Numismatic News

January 28, 1981 to July 15, 1981

Frequency of Listing By Condition

Date/Mintmark	Total	AG	G	VG	F	VF	XF	AU	UNC	PF
1839	20	-	2	2	4	4	5	-	3	-
1839 No Drapery	20	-	1	-	1	7	4	3	4	-
1840	38	1	5	6	4	7	4	7	4	-
1840 Reverse of 1838	4	-	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	-
1840-0	16	1	5	1	-	1	3	-	5	-
1841	7	-	-	1	-	1	4	-	-	1
1841-0	19	1	3	2	4	1	4	2	2	-
1842 Large Date	23	-	2	3	3	3	9	3	-	-
1842 Small Date	8	-	2	1	1	3	1	-	-	-
1842-0 Large Date	4	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
1842-0 Small Date	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

LIBERTY SEATED HALF DOLLARS

Frequency of Listing By Condition

Date/Mintmark	Total	AG	G	VG	F	VF	XF	AU	UNC	PF
1843	41	-	10	5	5	4	8	9	-	-
1843-0	16	1	6	6	-	3	-	-	-	-
1844	17	2	-	1	1	5	3	-	5	-
1844-0	34	-	9	8	4	6	7	-	-	-
1844/1844-0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
1845	3	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
1845-0	22	1	11	-	2	2	3	2	1	-
1845-0 No Drapery	2	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
1846 Medium Date	7	1	2	1	-	1	1	-	1	-
1846 Tall Date	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
1846 Unidentified Date	8	-	3	-	-	-	-	3	2	-
1846-0 Medium Date	5	1	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
1846-0 Tall Date	4	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-
1846-0 Unidentified Date	14	1	4	-	1	4	3	-	1	-
1847	17	-	-	4	-	-	6	7	-	-
1847-0	17	-	5	-	1	1	6	3	1	-
1848	2	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
1848-0	14	1	2	2	1	-	3	4	1	-
1849	7	-	-	-	-	2	-	3	2	-
1849-0	13	3	-	1	1	6	2	-	-	-
1850	7	-	-	2	-	1	-	3	-	1
1850-0	20	-	4	-	-	2	8	3	3	-
1851	5	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	2	-
1851-0	8	-	1	-	1	4	1	-	1	-
1852	3	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-
1852-0	8	-	1	1	-	4	1	1	-	-
1853 Arrows and Rays	150	5	17	23	12	29	37	21	6	-
1853-0 Arrows and Rays	40	1	6	7	6	10	9	1	-	-
1854 Arrows	77	4	11	21	2	10	10	14	5	-
1854-0 Arrows	91	8	25	19	4	5	14	8	8	-
1855 Arrows	12	-	-	3	-	4	3	2	-	-
1855/4 Arrows	6	-	-	-	2	-	3	-	-	1
1855-0 Arrows	92	8	11	18	8	11	21	11	4	-
1855-S Arrows	10	2	2	1	-	1	3	1	-	-
1856	21	-	2	6	-	-	8	5	-	-
1856-0	43	-	7	7	6	7	12	1	3	-
1856-S	11	2	3	-	1	1	3	1	-	-
1857	45	2	8	6	8	5	5	4	6	1

LIBERTY SEATED HALF DOLLARS

Frequency of Listing By Condition

Date/Mintmark	Total	AG	G	VG	F	VF	XF	AU	UNC	PF
1857-0	10	-	-	2	1	1	4	2	-	-
1857-S	10	-	-	-	-	4	1	5	-	-
1858	84	4	13	6	3	11	30	9	8	-
1858-0	92	3	17	15	7	17	20	9	4	-
1858-S	10	-	1	1	1	2	1	3	1	-
1859	30	-	1	-	3	7	7	7	2	3
1859-0	41	2	8	7	2	2	8	7	5	-
1859-S	22	1	5	4	1	2	6	3	-	-
1860	14	-	-	1	-	6	1	3	2	1
1860-0	25	1	7	5	2	2	2	1	5	-
1860-S	12	-	4	1	1	2	4	-	-	-
1861	45	1	3	4	7	12	5	5	8	-
1861-0	18	-	1	3	-	3	4	2	5	-
1861-S	26	-	10	4	1	-	7	1	3	-
1862	27	-	4	2	2	3	7	3	5	1
1862-S	24	1	5	5	1	2	3	6	1	-
1863	42	-	3	1	4	18	7	5	3	1
1863-S	24	2	6	4	-	2	-	4	6	-
1864	16	-	-	-	3	2	6	3	-	2
1864-S	13	1	3	2	1	1	4	1	-	-
1865	20	2	2	-	2	3	5	2	4	-
1865-S	14	1	-	1	1	3	2	6	-	-
1866	15	1	2	1	-	1	2	2	1	5
1866-S without Motto	7	-	-	1	1	4	1	-	-	-
1866-S with Motto	13	1	2	3	2	4	1	-	-	-
1867	25	-	3	4	2	4	4	2	3	3
1867-S	18	2	1	7	1	-	3	3	1	-
1868	7	-	3	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
1868-S	9	-	-	1	1	4	2	1	-	-
1869	32	-	5	3	1	7	5	6	2	3
1869-S	9	-	2	2	1	1	-	3	-	-
1870	21	-	3	-	1	3	1	4	3	6
1870-S	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
1870-CC	7	1	3	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
1871	32	-	1	11	3	3	8	-	4	2
1871-S	34	2	4	-	2	8	10	7	1	-
1871-CC	19	4	1	-	4	2	8	-	-	-
1872	19	-	5	4	2	-	5	1	2	-

LIBERTY SEATED HALF DOLLARS

Frequency of Listing By Condition

Date/Mintmark	Total	AG	G	VG	F	VF	XF	AU	UNC	PF
1872-S	11	1	4	1	-	-	5	-	-	-
1872-CC	45	6	6	3	3	11	10	6	-	-
1873 No Arrows	22	-	3	4	1	5	3	3	-	3
1873 Arrows	65	3	19	14	5	3	14	3	2	2
1873-S	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	-
1873-CC No Arrows	14	1	2	2	1	5	3	-	-	-
1873-CC Arrows	14	2	2	6	-	2	1	1	-	-
1874 Arrows	95	10	21	16	2	9	18	9	4	6
1874-S Arrows	15	1	1	1	1	-	6	5	-	-
1874-CC Arrows	13	-	5	6	1	-	1	-	-	-
1875	56	4	12	4	3	5	15	2	6	5
1875-S	24	1	5	4	1	7	1	2	3	-
1875-CC	10	-	1	-	-	2	-	1	6	-
1876	64	4	10	13	3	5	10	5	6	8
1876-S	28	2	11	5	3	1	1	3	2	-
1876-CC	15	2	3	5	-	1	-	2	2	-
1877	58	7	13	9	3	11	6	-	7	2
1877-S	41	1	7	6	5	3	6	2	11	-
1877-CC	15	1	3	5	3	1	-	-	2	-
1878	16	-	5	2	-	-	3	-	2	4
1878-S	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1878-CC	14	3	4	3	-	-	2	2	-	-
1879	29	-	1	9	-	1	2	2	7	7
1880	37	1	4	7	4	3	-	6	3	9
1881	38	-	8	8	5	2	-	4	5	6
1882	29	1	2	4	-	-	4	4	7	7
1883	32	-	1	8	1	4	8	4	3	3
1884	35	-	1	6	2	4	3	5	7	7
1885	17	-	-	6	-	1	-	1	3	6
1886	15	-	-	1	1	1	4	1	5	2
1887	18	-	3	3	1	-	1	1	1	8
1888	34	1	5	5	6	1	2	4	4	6
1889	31	-	2	7	4	2	1	3	6	6
1890	20	2	3	2	1	2	-	2	5	3
1891	30	-	10	8	4	1	2	1	2	2

The 1853/4 Quarter

Shown below is a picture of an 1853/4 quarter sent in by Jerry Phillips of O'Fallon, Missouri. This newly discovered variety is characterized by the line that runs through the upper loop of the digit 3 that is believed to be the remains of an earlier 4 punch. While this information is sufficient to identify the piece there are many additional die markings that make this variety an interesting piece for study.

Study of the date area of the coin reveals that there is evidence of doubling on all four digits of the date as well as the right arrow. The doubling on the right arrow is very strong with an extra line visible over the arrow shaft and a small segment also visible over the upper left edge of the arrow. For the digit 3 the remains of an earlier punch run through the center of the upper loop and extend down into the lower loop. There are also two tiny segments that extend out behind the lower loop of the 3 that could easily be taken to be the remains of the serif of a 4. The digit 5 shows doubling on the outside upper left edge of the upright and along the inside right edge of the lower loop. There appear to be some tooling marks over the digit 5 to clear up some defects in the die that might have resulted from the double punch. There is evidence of doubling along the inside right edges of both loops of the 8 and some minor evidence along the upper outside edge. There is a small segment in the field over the left edge of the serif of the digit 1 that may or may not be part of the repunching process.

A die crack visible on this piece might be helpful in identifying the die should the doubling wear off through die wear. This crack runs through the lower edge of the rock, through the center of the right arrow and then on into the lower edge of the digit 3 in the date. Soon after it was discovered a few years ago examples of this variety brought good premiums at auction. The attention given to the variety led to the discovery of additional specimens and there is now some doubt as to the real rarity of the variety. It is difficult to set a price for such a specimen and it must really be left to the collector to decide what price he is willing to pay for an unusual item whose market value is still in the process of being determined.

The Editor

SEATED HALF DOLLARS

1867-P Very Fine-25 subdued glossy surfaces from old cleaning. No detracting surface marks $67.00

1873-CC W/A Fine-15 has been cleaned, small staple size scratch in left obverse field that does not detract $80.00

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Unlisted Seated Dime Varieties

by

Major Tony Frederickson

I began collecting Liberty Seated Dimes by date and mintmark in 1977. Where possible, my goal was to complete the set using fine and very fine as desired grades. This task was somewhat difficult, especially in procuring the elusive 1867-P (AU-50 EX PROOF) and 1874-CC (F-15) pieces. Happily though, these coins proved to be nice finishing touches to my effort. Or, so I thought.

Only days after realizing the completion of my set according to Red Book, I decided to go the next step: collect Seated Dimes by variety. Setting realistic goals is a mind boggling task because, as Kam Ahwash so superbly establishes in his outstanding "Encyclopedia of United States Liberty Seated Dimes", there are countless numbers of varieties in the series. Collecting different size mintmarks can be an interesting challenge when collecting by variety, but the big job will be for someone to establish the sequence for obverse and reverse die matings as Dr. Sheldon did with "Penny Whimsy". As other Seated Dime enthusiasts realize, there are many interesting varieties which are unlisted in the Seated Dime Encyclopedia. For example, in just over one year I have procured 74 of these unlisted coins. Of course, most distinguishing characteristics are of minor differences; usually date and/or mintmark location. An example is the 1877-CC. Kam Ahwash lists nine varieties in the encyclopedia of which I own five. However, I have obtained seven additional unlisted pieces. These are characterized by different listed and unlisted obverse and reverse die combinations. There were 44 obverse and 37 reverse dies used in 1877, meaning there should be a high number of varieties just for this year.

My purpose here is to allow others to share what I have found in this interesting series. The descriptions that follow are short for the sake of brevity and include coins which I have found to be unlisted in the encyclopedia by Kam Ahwash. Some notation has been used in reference to coins listed in the encyclopedia. For example SP-7 means that the left tip of the digit 1 in the date is directly below the 7th stripe in the obverse shield,counting from the left.The notation A5 refers to the fifth variety of the given date described by Ahwash in his encyclopedia.

Date	Grade	Description
1. 1839-0	VF-20....	Recut date, die crack joining stars 3-7, 9-13. Large 0
2. 1841-0	F-12.....	SP-9, date slopes up, Small o.
3. 1841-0	VF-25....	SP-7, sloping date, Small o, mintmark positioned far right.
4. 1842	VF-30....	Same as A3, without broken rim.
5. 1850	VF-20....	SP-6, high date, digits do not touch base.
6. 1850-0	VF-20....	Obverse A1, Reverse A2.

7. 1851 F-15 ..... SP-5, high sloping date.
8. 1852 F-12 ..... SP-7, level date not touching base, thin digits
9. 1852 VF-30.... SP-7.5, high date, 2 not touching base.
10. 1853 F-12 ..... SP-6.5, recut date, left arrow same as A5, right arrow closer to 3 than A5.
11. 1856 F-15 ..... SP-7, Large date.
12. 1856 VF-30.... SP-8.5, Small date, sloping up.
13. 1856 VF-20.... SP-7, Small date, high, sloping up,
14. 1856 VF-20.... SP-7.5, Small date, high, sloping up.
15. 1856-0 F-12 ..... SP-6.5, level date, Reverse A4.
16. 1857 F-15 ..... SP-7.5, sloping date.
17. 1859-0 F-12 ..... SP-8.5, 185 in date appears recut, Reverse A2, Medium 0.

18. 1859-0 XF-45.... Obverse A1, Reverse A2, Medium 0.
19. 1859-0 VF-20.... SP-7.5, Reverse A1, Large 0.
20. 1865-S F-12 ..... SP-8, date level, pendant centered over 6.
21. 1873 XF-45.... No Arrows, Closed 3, SP-8, date slopes up, 1 and 7 recut.
22. 1873 VF-20.... No Arrows, Closed 3, SP-7.5, sloping date, recut 3.
23. 1873 F-15 ..... With Arrows, SP-8.5, pendant over serif of 7, right arrow high, slopes up.
24. 1873 F-15 ..... With Arrows, SP-8.5, pendant over serif of 7, right arrow high, high date sloping down.
25. 1873-S F-12 ..... Obverse A1, weak mintmark positioned left of center.
26. 1874-S VF-30.... Obverse A1, reverse of 1870-S ? Reverse rotated 10 degrees.
27. 1875 VF-20.... SP-8.5, pendant falls between 8 & 7, clashed dies.
28. 1875-CC XF-45.... SP-8, Wide CC mintmark within wreath tilting down, reverse die cracks.
29. 1875-CC VF-20.... SP-8.5, CC mintmark within wreath, lower than A2.
30. 1875-CC VF-20.... Obverse A4, Reverse A1.
31. 1875-CC F-15 ..... Obverse A4. Wide mintmark under wreath, sloping up.
32. 1875-CC F-12 ..... SP-9, sloping date. Pendant over right edge of 8, wide mintmark under wreath.
33. 1876 XF-45.... SP-8.5, small knob 6, partial S & O, Type 1 reverse hub.
34. 1876 VF-30.... SP-7, large Knob 6, sloping date, pendant over crotch of 7, Type I reverse hub.
35. 1876-S F-12 ..... SP-9, large knob 6, pendant left of edge of serif of 7, s over s mintmark.
36. 1876-S XF-45.... Obverse A2, Reverse A4.
37. 1876-S VF-30.... SP-7, pendant just left of center of 7, small knob 6, sloping date, die cracks on reverse, mintmark centered under bow, Type 1 reverse hub.

Date	Grade	Description
38. 1876-CC	F-15	Obverse A1, Reverse A4.
39. 1876-CC	VF-30	Obverse A3. Reverse A4.
40. 1876-CC	VG-8	Obverse A5, doubled obverse. Wide mintmark, right C thin and high, Type B.
41. 1877	XF-45	SP-8, S in STATES doubled, doubled wreath, Type 2 reverse hub.
42. 1877	VF-20	SP-8, reverse die cracks in wreath, Type 1 reverse hub.
43. 1877-CC	VF-25	Obverse A5, Reverse A4.
44. 1877-CC	VF-20	Obverse A5, Reverse A6.
45. 1877-CC	XF-45	SP-7.5, CC mintmark slightly high and centered, right C higher, mintmark doubled. Type 1 reverse hub.
46. 1877-CC	XF-45	Obverse A5 except S & O are complete. CC mintmark weak, open, sloping down from upper left part of bow. Type 2 reverse hub.
47. 1877-CC	F-15	Obverse A2, Type 1 reverse hub. Mintmark positioned right of center, right C low, almost touches ribbon.
48. 1877-CC	F-15	SP-8, pendant over crotch of 7, Reverse A2.
49. 1877-CC	VF-30	Obverse A5, CC mintmark centered and level. Type 2 reverse hub.
50. 1878	VF-20	SP-8, pendant left of center of 7. Type 2 reverse hub.
51. 1886	F-15	SP-8, pendant over center of left upright of 8.
52. 1886	F-12	SP-8, pendant over left center of 8, large knob 6.
53. 1887	F-15	SP-8, pendant over left edge of 8.
54. 1887	VF-35	SP-7, pendant over center of left upright of 8.
55. 1887-S	XF-40	Obverse A3, mintmark positioned left of center, tilts up.
56. 1887-S	VF-20	SP-6.5, date slightly sloping, mintmark positioned right of center, sloping up.
57. 1888	F-15	SP-8, pendant left of center of 8.
58. 1888-S	VF-30	SP-7, pendant right of center of 8, sloping date. Mintmark positioned right of center.
59. 1888-S	VF-20	SP-8, pendant over left upright of 8, sloping date. Reverse A1.
60. 1888-S	F-15	Obverse A2. Mintmark centered, filled and tilted up.
61. 1889	F-15	SP-6.5, sloping date, pendant over center of 8.
62. 1889	VF-20	SP-6.5, sloping date, pendant left of center of 8, recut 1 & 9, clashed dies, reverse wreath doubled.
63. 1890-S	VF-35	Obverse A2, Small s mintmark positioned far to the left.
64. 1890-S	XF-40	SP-8, sloping date, Medium s mintmark, top half of mintmark filled and tilted up.
65. 1891	XF-45	SP-7.5, looks like A1 except no partial drapery.
66. 1891	F-15	SP-8, level, normal date.

Date	Grade	Description
67. 1891	F-15	SP-6.5, pendant centered over 9, sloping date.
68. 1891-0	VF-20	SP-6, heavily clashed dies, pendant just inside right upright of 9.
69. 1891-0	XF-45	Obverse A7, mintmark positioned left of center.
70. 1891-0	F-15	Obverse A3, Reverse A1.
71. 1891-0	XF-45	SP-6.5, date slightly sloping, mintmark repunched right, reverse die clashed.
72. 1891-0	VF-20	SP-8, pendant over left upright of 9, reverse A2.
73. 1891-S	F-15	SP-6, medium S mintmark partially filled, pendant right of center of 9, both 1's recut.
74. 1891-S	VF-30	SP-8, Small s mintmark, date slopes up. Mintmark centered and tilted up.

The Rarity of 1875-CC Quarter Varieties Updated

In Issue #20 of the Journal I described two varieties of the 1875-CC quarter and showed pictures of the reverses of both varieties. As a result of that article Eddie Randell showed me a group of seven pieces of this date which he had put aside over a period of several years. An examination of these pieces revealed that six were of Variety 1 as described on page 23 of Issue #20 and only one was of Variety 2. Since this relative rarity matched my own experience with this date I felt safe in stating that Variety 2 appeared to be a rare variety among 1875-CC quarters in Issue #21. Shortly after the statement appeared however I received information which contradicted the stated rarity ratings. In July 1981 I met Larry Briggs in Columbus, Ohio and he showed me his four 1875-CC quarters, three of which proved to be Variety 2. I also heard from another club member who indicated that he also had an example of Variety 2. This information has forced me to retract my statements of rarity for Variety 2 and to conclude that both varieties would be available to the interested variety collector.

This example only demonstrates too well how difficult it is to determine rarity for varieties of a given date. Individual experiences with a given variety will often vary greatly and with so few pieces available for examination it is often difficult to make a sound judgment on relative rarity. A few times I have looked for a particular variety for several years only to find two examples of the supposedly rare variety at the same show. The collector should be very cautious of claims of great rarity for a newly discovered variety and should be particularly careful when such a variety is offered for sale at a large premium.

The Editor

The 1872-CC Dollar

by

John W. McCloskey

The listed mintage for the 1872-CC Seated dollar is 3150 pieces. Yet in spite of this tiny mintage the date is still available to the interested collector at a reasonable price. However it remains to be seen just how long a date of this rarity will continue to be available for purchase. An increase in collector interest in the Seated dollar series seems overdue and there is no way to predict how such a trend will affect the availability of the four Carson City dates in the Seated dollar series.

I have been studying the die characteristics of 1872-CC dollars available at shows and conventions over the last two years and have noted some features that will help the collector identify this date and protect him against altered pieces when purchasing this rarity. All those pieces that I have examined have been struck from a single pair of dies and exhibit similar characteristics. While it is certainly possible that a second die variety could exist for this date the tiny mintage figure makes it unlikely. Particular identifying features of the 1872-CC dollar are given below.

OBVERSE - The date is located high in the field with the digit 1 only 0.5mm from the base of the rock. The digit 2 is doubled across the top as shown in the diagram by the shaded area. The doubling has been strong enough to be visible on all the pieces that I have examined, even on well worn pieces because it is in a protected area on the coin.

REVERSE - The Carson City mintmark is located high in the field with each C measuring 1.1mm tall and 0.8mm wide. The left C is located over the right side of the letter E and is positioned a little closer to the feather than the claw. The right C is about 80% left of the crotch between the feather and the stem and is located over the space between the letters ED. A die line is visible on the denticle that is located just left of the upright of the letter L. This die line runs from the upper left edge of the denticle out toward the letter O and has been seen on all the 1872-CC dollars that I have examined.

It is hoped that this information will help the collector authenticate his 1872-CC dollars and make him aware of the die characteristics seen on the genuine specimens. Any member with further information on this date is encouraged to share it with other members so that we can all profit from the best available information.

The drawing of the digit 2 showing the doubled portion of the date was made by Montfort Johnsen. The pictures of the 1872-CC dollars were taken by Tom Mulvaney at Paramount Rare Coin Corp. in Englewood, Ohio.

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An 1877 Counterfeit Half

A picture of an 1877 counterfeit half sent in by Jim Skwarek is shown below. It is a very good example of a counterfeit piece that was struck from dies made outside the mint during the 19th century. The wear on the piece indicates that it did circulate for a period of many years. The design is actually very close to the correct design but there are enough differences to make it easy to detect from a genuine specimen. How many errors in the design can you find?

There are no obvious blunders in the obverse design but enough errors are visible to document the differences from the genuine design. On the counterfeit piece the ribbon runs almost straight across the front of the shield. On the genuine pieces the ribbon waives across the shield with even the letters in LIBERTY showing a definite arc. On the counterfeit piece the 7th star is too close to the face of Miss Liberty and the drapery fold just right of the tip of the shield is improperly shaped. The date is a particular problem with the digits poorly shaped. The lower edge of the upper serif on the digit 1 should be perpendicular to the upright of the digit instead of sloping sharply down as it does. The two loops of the digit 8 should be the same size but the upper loop is noticeably smaller. The left edge of the two 7's slope down to the left instead of the nearly vertical slope on the genuine pieces. On the reverse there are some minor errors in the shape of the letters and in the position of the berries in the branch. Overall the die work is much better than that seen on other contemporary counterfeits and could be a problem in detection for someone not familiar with the designs of Seated coinage.

The counterfeit piece weighs almost 180 grains, some 13 grains lighter than the genuine specimens. Unusual for a counterfeit is the fact that the specimen has strong even reeding but not the proper gauge for a Philadelphia half of this period. The rim is weaker than would be expected for a piece of this grade with full LIBERTY visible in the obverse shield. Yet in spite of all the problems outlined in this study, it is easy to see how the piece could circulate without detection by the average merchant.

The pictures of the 1877 counterfeit half were taken by Tom Mulvaney at Paramount Rare Coin Corp. in Englewood, Ohio.

At the ANA, New Orleans 1981

Each ANA convention brings new activity to the numismatic market and some surprising trends surfaced in New Orleans this year. I was particularly surprised by the activity in Seated Dollars at this convention. For many years the Seated dollars have been very difficult to locate with prices remaining relatively steady. This year I found many more dates available in more grades with a sharp increase in the price of high grade pieces. The rare dates were available in sharp contrast to previous years. I saw two 1873-CC dollars, one a very choice AU specimen. There were two 1871-CC dollars and at least four 1872-CC dollars available. I saw a very choice 1854 specimen, three 1855 specimens and several dated 1856 and 1857. I remember seeing examples of all the Philadelphia dates from 1862 to 1869 but cannot remember seeing a specimen dated 1861. All of the above dates listed were in dealers stock on the floor of the convention in circulated grades ranging from Good to AU. I saw three 1844 dollars, each having the extra loop of the 8 appearing in the drapery over the dates as described in Issue #21 of the journal. I have to feel that the Seated dollar series is on the verge of awakening.

Activity in the other Seated series seemed to be normal or a little below normal. There were a few assorted rare dates in the smaller denominations but nothing out of the ordinary. I remember seeing two 1855-S halves and an 1870-CC half. I counted four 1878-CC halves, a larger number than expected of this date. The halves dated from 1879 to 1890 remain popular and were available at the convention in circulated grades. I saw two quarters dated 1873-CC, an 1871-CC, an 1872-S and two pieces dated 1849-0. I remember two dimes dated 1860-0, an 1865, an 1866, an 1871-CC and two 1873-CC specimens. All the dimes and quarters mentioned above were in average circulated grades with the exception of the 1866 dime which graded XF. I also found the 1853-0 No Arrows half dime to be available at the convention with the three pieces seen all having very weak dates. I also saw several 1863 half dimes, two 1865 half dimes and an 1867 half dime.

The Editor

Dinardo Mints Gobrecht Medal

Announcement of the forthcoming medalic tribute to Christian Gobrecht, the Third Chief Engraver of the United States Mint, was made during the recent ANA Convention in New Orleans by medalic artist Joseph E. Dinardo.

Christian Gobrecht, noted for the development of the "Seated Liberty figure" after the design of Thomas Sully, has long been admired by numismatists for its artistic composition. Dinardo has chosen to recreate this design in a medal honoring this noted engraver. Although many die varieties exist throughout the coinage series, the recreation of Gobrecht's figure is quite accurate.

The reverse features one of Gobrecht's models of the American Eagle, developed in 1838 after a design of Franklin Peale, which was never adopted as a coinage device. A bronze casting and hub of this eagle is illustrated in a publication of the Smithsonian Institution authored by curator Dr. V. Clain-Stefanelli. Dinardo, inspired by this casting, selected it for the reverse of his medal.

The sculptured models and the working dies were produced by Mr. Dinardo in conjunction with Mr. Nicholas Giordano a leading authority on transfer engraving. A 500 ton press will be used by Dinardo and an associate Mr. Bernard Tessier of Schenectady, New York, to mint the medal honoring this famous chief engraver. The medal which will be minted in proof-like pewter which resembles silver, will be two inches in diameter and approximately one-quarter inch in thickness. Both obverse and reverse are sharply detailed and in "frosted high relief". The medal will be executed in a style used during the 1800's which Dinardo feels is in keeping with the period of Gobrecht's work.

Those interested in obtaining pewter specimens or special orders in pure silver and copper should write to: Joseph E. Dinardo, Medalist, P.O. Box 62, Schenectady, New York 12301.

TREASURER'S REPORT 1980-1981
Liberty Seated Collectors Club

Beginning Balance 8/5/80	$ 203.97	
RECEIPTS:		
New Members	520.00	
Renewal Membership	1764.50	
Advertising	585.00	
Magazine Sales	113.00	
Donations	69.50	
Interest Income	67.79	
Refund on Postage	3.75	3123.54
Total Available	$3327.51	
DISBURSEMENTS:		
Printing Expense	$2001.50	
Postage & Office Expenses	784.31	
ANA Membership	15.00	
Bad Check	7.50	2808.31
Cash Balance - 7/16/81	$ 519.20	

A big **THANK YOU** goes out to the following members for their generous contributions to the club treasury:

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George Wertz #281
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